NEEDLES and PINS

MINA · DEANE · HALSEY

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Needles and Pins

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BY

MINA DEANE HALSEY

AUTHOR OF

"A Tenderfoot in Southern California,"
"When East Comes West,"
etc., etc.

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I Dedicate
This Volume of "Needles and Pins"
To My Boy
Gene

FOREWORD

The author begs forgiveness from all those whose corns have been unconsciously trodden upon, and mercy from those whose sensitive feelings have been unintentionally hurt. In every case where the shoe might seem to be a good fit, remember I have always had your next door neighbor in mind at the time of writing, and *not* your own good self.

'Tis said "Experience is a great teacher," and let me dare add—Observation is a wonderful eye opener, and the author has always been blessed with good eyesight.

While some of these epigrams may directly contradict a preceding one, so is one's daily life in direct contradiction to another's — their moods and pursuits, many and varying.

Needles and Pins

THE intelligence we see in the face of a beautiful horse makes us feel sorry for the man next door.

THEY say there's a weak spot in every woman, but there are so many in men that, if they were all on the surface, they'd be quarantined for smallpox.

THE up-to-date girl has rings on her fingers and corns on her toes.

NEEDLES AND PINS

A DOG'S devotion sometimes makes us try to figure out what's wrong with mankind.

DID you ever wonder why a hard-working woman isn't allowed to wear the pants, when the thing she married for a breadwinner can only spit for her.

IDLE minds work overtime for the devil.

NEEDLES AND PINS

WHY be so suspicious of the man who goes out between acts? It may be a flea.

THE luxuries of life are overbalanced by the worry of taking care of them.

IF every young girl saw her husband in bathing before she married him, the old-maid crop would be enormous.

NEEDLES AND PINS

AFTER a square meal, a man can begin to see beauty in his mother-in-law.

NOTHING is worth while in this world that requires a tear.

THE patch of black court-plaster on a woman's face may attract a *man*, but every *woman* knows there's a pimple under it.

NEEDLES AND PINS

IF we could only bring ourselves to realize the nothingness of all earthly things, what our next-door neighbor calls us wouldn't count.

WHEN the last few embers of a dying love splutter and go out, it's too late to use the bellows.

THE more we satisfy our finer qualities, the more particular we are.

NEEDLES AND PINS

THE more we study human nature, the less faith we have in it.

THE only man in bathing that isn't sizing up some woman's shape, is the one just taken with a cramp.

SOME people mistake independence for a chip on the shoulder.

NEEDLES AND PINS

JUST as long as there is a fool man ready to travel down hill, there will always be a bigger fool woman coming up hill to meet him halfway.

ANY kind of work looks like play to us, when some other weary soul is doing it.

WHEN a woman loves, she loves; a man only thinks so.

NEEDLES AND PINS

AFTER reading about a red-hot prize-fight, why go into strange countries to civilize the heathen?

MONEY may be filthy, but it will wash.

MEN seek women who are good fellows, but they would run a mile rather than marry one.

NEEDLES AND PINS

A WOMAN without suspicion is as rare as a rose without a thorn.

WHEN a rich man has a pain, it's appendicitis; when a poor man has a pain in the same spot, it is just plain bellyache.

FLATTERY is the feeler sent out by designing humankind.

MARRIAGE is the show-down of life.

THE love and confidence God put in womankind is the only one thing that has kept home sacred.

SELF - CONTROL should be classed as a virtue.

NEEDLES AND PINS

THE ever ready man who is eager to sympathize with the neglected wife is the devil's idea of a gentleman.

AMBITION is the yeast of life.

THE first kiss an old maid gets is like pie to a hungry man.

NEEDLES AND PINS

THE man who must have company around, to make his own fireside bearable, doesn't deserve a fire—in this world.

ANTICIPATION is a bubble; realization is the pin.

THE birch tree has been the making of more good men than the family tree.

NEEDLES AND PINS

THE girl who scrambles her hair until it looks like a last-year's bird's nest, and takes two solid hours in the process of doing so, is very liable to pin the buttons on her underwear, and stick a postage stamp over the hole in her stocking.

NEEDLES AND PINS

A SMALL piece of jewelry may be only a trifling thing, but it has bought many a woman's soul.

THIS world was not made for a favored few—it only seems so.

MEN live in the future; women in the past.

IF you are in hopes of getting a front seat in Heaven when you die, don't occupy a box seat in Hell while you live.

NEEDLES AND PINS

IF every woman knew how hard it is to make a dollar, she would be better satisfied with her job of washing dishes.

MEAN thoughts sent out are sure to rebound.

A DOG with a bone isn't any more liable to snap than an old man with a young wife.

NEEDLES AND PINS

THE man who loses his life to save another doesn't need any high-priced preacher at his funeral to help him through the gates into Heaven.

IT'S wit that keeps the world laughing, but it's sentiment that keeps it thinking.

A WOMAN'S "darn it" is a man's "damn it" in petticoats.

NEEDLES AND PINS

WHEN a man compares his old and wrinkled wife with a young girl, he sighs. When his wife pats his bald head and kisses his dull eyes, she sighs also, but their thoughts run in different channels.

A CONFIDENCE in tears is often repeated with sneers.

NEEDLES AND PINS

BEAUTY may be only skin deep, but the best-looking woman gets the most automobile rides.

THE world doesn't seem so empty when the stomach is full.

SOME men never begin to realize how little their wife had to live for, until after the funeral.

NEEDLES AND PINS

IT'S a whole lot easier to play a game of tennis in a rocking-chair than at the service line.

THE woman who is blind to her husband's best efforts is only laying stepping-stones for some other willing woman to tread.

WHEN we find a man who cannot look us in the eye, we unconsciously take a firmer grip on our pocketbook.

NEEDLES AND PINS

AFTER battling with the servant-girl problem, a housewife can find Heaven in a vegetarian restaurant.

MARRIAGE is a sacrifice of self—for the woman.

ANY woman who can crowd a No. 6 foot into a No. 2 shoe, and be able to smile, deserves all the admiration her tiny feet may excite.

NEEDLES AND PINS

A CARBUNCLE on your neck isn't the most hilarious thing in the world, but it's a real joke compared to a boil—elsewhere.

A WOMAN may forgive a wrong, but she never forgets it.

DOGS resemble their masters, but they wouldn't if they could help themselves.

NEEDLES AND PINS

MANY good men *are* good, from lack of opportunity.

MOST men's ideal of a wife is one who will believe him when he limps home at three o'clock in the morning, weak and wobbly, and insists he has been taking account of stock.

WHEN a friend wants to borrow a little something, lend him some of your troubles.

NEEDLES AND PINS

HOW few men realize that the beautiful figure they admire in another man's wife can be bought in any up-to-date department store.

TEMPTATION is the siren's welcome to a starving heart.

YOU may not see bald-headed men buying fine tooth combs or bristle hair brushes, but you can find them buying sticky fly paper any time.

NEEDLES AND PINS

A MANNISH woman and a ladylike man are two of the misfits of life.

WHISKEY is the devil's right-hand bower.

INFATUATION is like the foam on a glass of soda. It doesn't last long.

THE young girl who pins her faith on a married man should use safety-pins.

TEARS and silence leave deeper scars than many words.

NEEDLES AND PINS

MOST of us are good because we are afraid some one might be looking.

THE medals some wives pin on their honorable (?) husbands with a kiss, are often torn off by his mistress with a sneer.

TO the laggard, a steep hill is higher than the Alps.

LOST faith is only another way of spelling suspicion.

NEEDLES AND PINS

A MOTHER'S estimate of her son, and his wife's opinion of him, wouldn't read just the same in print.

GOOD music has saved more souls than good sermons.

IF you notice, a bow-legged man and a knock-kneed woman will always feel hurt when not invited to stand in the front row in living pictures.

NEEDLES AND PINS

WHEN a man is accused of murder, his wife clings all the closer; but when he is accused of unfaithfulness, she loosens her hold.

WHEN a girl goes in bathing she often loses a sweetheart.

VACATION may be a treat, but it's a frost compared to the real joy of packing up for Home, Sweet Home.

NEEDLES AND PINS

THE best proof that the devil was originally a married man is the fact that he invented the loophole divorce for the rest of mankind.

IDLENESS is the chief ingredient of discontent.

THE woman is yet to be found who will say her best friend's gray hair comes from ill health, instead of old age.

NEEDLES AND PINS

WHEN we lose an old friend, we have lost a part of ourselves.

THE dunce at school, when you were a boy, is liable to be president of the company you are working for now.

SHAME is the afterthought of anger.

LORD help the wife who would set before her husband the grub his mother used to make.

NEEDLES AND PINS

THE words of a true friend ring like a good coin; the other kind, like a plugged dollar.

SINCE the beginning, Heaven has always been a little nearer to a woman than to a man.

MOST men have a strong suspicion that their mother-in-law is a mind reader.

NEEDLES AND PINS

THE only time life is a dream to a married woman is when she is asleep—and even then she is liable to have the nightmare.

A NEGRO, with his hoe cake and bacon, can find more real joy eating it than a millionaire at a banquet.

IF our virtues were as glaring as our faults, the village gossip would die of lockjaw.

NEEDLES AND PINS

A GOOD hearty laugh takes the wrinkles out of life.

WHEN a man's hair gets gray, he is called fine-looking; when a woman's hair gets gray, she is called an old hen.

THE farmer who gets up at three o'clock in the morning doesn't see anything to rave over in the sunrise.

NEEDLES AND PINS

A SMALL dish of ice-cream, eaten with your best girl, beats a gallon with her mother any day.

A BABY'S first tooth is the only real important event that hasn't been added to history.

WHEN a young husband fails to notice a new dress on his wife, she may be sure the honeymoon is on the wane.

NEEDLES AND PINS

WHEN a wife goes away, her husband kisses her, and says to himself, "I'm sure". When a husband goes away, his wife kisses him, and says to herself, "I wonder".

WHEN a man's in debt, he thinks every other man is in the same fix.

CONSCIENCE is that spark within us that shakes hands with us when we deserve it.

NEEDLES AND PINS

WHEN a weary soul needs only kind words to give it a boost, don't be stingy.

GIVE some friends time enough, and they will hang themselves with a rope woven of expected favors.

IT may cost more to get a divorce than it does to get married, but it's worth it.

NEEDLES AND PINS

IF you are not able to contribute a bucket of water to the fires of life, a little spit will help some.

THE children of yesterday are the law-makers of to-day.

A WOMAN'S faith will stand firm as the Rock of Gibraltar, until some friend advises her to take a look at the foundation.

NEEDLES AND PINS

AIN'T no use stickin' your troubles in *my* pocket—I got a hole in it.

PUBLIC opinion is the knock-out blow to many a man's individuality.

IT always looks as if the other fellow's road to success is a shorter cut than ours.

A DREAMY waltz, with the right man, is Heaven enough for most women.

NEEDLES AND PINS

A POOR man with a dollar in his pocket is a whole lot surer of it than a rich man with ten thousand in a gold mine.

LOVE is a weakening disease that must run its course.

WHEN a man isn't scheming to get into trouble, he's working like the devil to get out of it.

A MAN prays hard for the woman he wants before he gets her; the woman does all the praying there is—afterwards.

NEEDLES AND PINS.

A GOOD-BYE kiss is a little thing, but it will take the sting out of a thoughtless word you may have said to your wife at the breakfast table.

THE fool will never be annoyed by having a big doctor's bill sent in for brain fever.

THE heart God put in woman is a vast improvement on his first attempt.

NEEDLES AND PINS

HATE, envy, and deceit are weeds in the garden of life.

BEFORE marriage a girl will spend hours manicuring her finger-nails—afterwards they are almost always in mourning.

TROUBLE and a tangled skein of yarn are a good deal alike. There *is* an end, but where?

NEEDLES AND PINS

WHEN a cross-eyed, red-headed baby fails to take the blue ribbon at a baby show, the father lays it to favoritism and poor judgment.

A FLY in the soup takes the poetry out of life for the time being.

A TEN-ACRE lot, with a house in the middle of it, should go with every marriage certificate.

NEEDLES AND PINS

THE poor man whose brain is fertile enough to make the money in this world is seldom the one that spends it.

A GIRL who sometimes forgets to friz her hair when her sweetheart calls, has one thing less to explain after marriage.

A CHILD'S voice will bring some men to their senses much sooner than a wife's tears.

NEEDLES AND PINS

A WISE woman will never allow the man who brags of other conquests to add hers to his list.

IT'S only the very rich that can really afford to say just what they think in this world.

THE mirage of life—hope deferred.

THE only time some husbands get a chance to talk is in their sleep—and *then* they don't know it.

HEARTACHE is a word coined for the exclusive use of woman.

AN old man with a young wife is pitiful; but an old woman with a young husband is really pathetic.

WHEN we come to the point in life where we can trust no one, we will bear watching ourselves.

NEEDLES AND PINS

ENCOURAGEMENT is to a weary heart what a square meal is to an empty stomach.

INDIFFERENCE kills more wives than childbearing.

CONTENTMENT is a gold mine of unlimited wealth.

THE highways of youth need many a guide-post—old age can follow the ruts.

NEEDLES AND PINS

THE vanishing youth of a once beautiful woman hurts her worse than any other earthly pain.

THE wind isn't the only thing that blows. Present company always excepted.

THINK twice, speak once—and make that once count double.

NEEDLES AND PINS

WELL-OILED wheels are not always noiseless. Nothing personal.

OUR finer qualities are ofttimes crowded out by the coarser ones of others.

SOME men can hold a girl's hand every night for six months before marriage, but he can't hold the baby six minutes afterwards.

NEEDLES AND PINS

THE straight and narrow path would be more inviting to most of us if there were more people going that way.

BRASS buttons and a well-curled moustache are about all the requirements necessary to the average girl.

THE best that is in us is none too good for ourselves.

NEEDLES AND PINS

WHEN a suspicious wife keeps too close tab on her husband, nine times out of ten he doesn't disappoint her.

A LAZY man and success never shake hands.

THE honeymoon is that time in each man's life when the rest of the world's lights go out.

NEEDLES AND PINS

A WOMAN'S tongue may be only two inches long, but it has killed many a two-hundred-pound man.

SOME men were never fashioned by nature to wear a dress suit.

WHEN we see a man beating a faithful dog, we sometimes wonder why the brains were not put into the better animal of the two.

NEEDLES AND PINS

ALL some women need to be called beautiful, is money to buy a few trimmings.

WHEN there is no responsive pressure in a hand-clasp, a wife needs no explanations.

STICKY fly paper and a sewing machine agent are first cousins.

THE same devil that brings trouble to the poor man brings pleasures to the rich.

NEEDLES AND PINS

A MAN will get in and work hard when his young bride is smiling over him, but he is too sick to bring up the coal when she gets to be his old woman.

THERE is a certain age in a woman's life when a hairpin answers just as well as a silver buttonhook to fasten her glove.

A LOVELESS couple need no one to explain to them the meaning of the word hell.

NEEDLES AND PINS

FAILURE often determines the metal we are made of.

A POOR man doesn't notice how mighty homely his wife is until he begins to make money.

WHEN we censure others, we only bring our own faults into the limelight.

THE fool-killer has a strangle hold on any woman who marries a man to reform him.

NEEDLES AND PINS

A WOMAN knows more about a man in half an hour after she marries him than she ever imagined in their ten years' going together.

A CORKSCREW will never pull a man out of trouble, but some men only want a lift.

A WOMAN gives up everything in exchange for her wedding ring; the man gives up nothing, and soaks the ring.

NEEDLES AND PINS

A BEAUTIFUL maiden, singing of love, doesn't stir up any response in the bosom of a man troubled with soft corns.

FRIENDSHIP is an unknown quantity.

THE only difference between your boy and my boy is, that one is a fresh little monkey and the other ought to be in jail.

NEEDLES AND PINS

THE man who lived on his wife's family when *he* was first married, looks with suspicion on the young fellow who wants to marry his own daughter.

LOVE may be blind, but an eye-opener goes with every case of it.

A TWO-EDGED sword, sharpened to a hair, is dull as a hoe compared to the tongue of a jealous woman.

NEEDLES AND PINS

EVERY home is a Castle when your own Queen is there.

A MAN'S love may open the gates of a maiden's heart, but his forgetfulness closes them forever to the word "Faith."

THE first inspirations of most great artists are born of an empty stomach.

NEEDLES AND PINS

A BOY'S early training makes it easier for some woman later on.

THE woman who can cook, wash and iron, sew, sweep, feed, bathe and dress three or four children each day, and be sitting on the veranda dressed like a summer girl when her *dear* husband comes home, took the first train out for Heaven some years ago.

NEEDLES AND PINS

YOUR neighbor knows the biggest fool isn't dead yet — he has long been looking for your funeral notice.

A MAN in love swears his girl is an angel. After he marries her, he uses her wings to brush off his dirty boots.

IF all mothers' prayers were answered, the devil would starve to death.

LOVE comes but once to most women— men are not so particular.

NEEDLES AND PINS

THE heartaches some women endure in striving to hold the love of an indifferent husband ought to be sufficient passport into Heaven.

A STARVING man doesn't balk at a hair in the hash.

A LOOSE tongue often puts us in tight places.

EVEN a happy wife feels a dull pain in her heart when she reads the marriage notice of an old sweetheart.

NEEDLES AND PINS

A WOMAN'S hand may be small, but it holds the world in its palm for many a man.

THE man who already has six children, and wouldn't take a million dollars for the seventh, wouldn't give five cents for another one.

YOU can eat what you choose, if you chew what you choose.

A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING man in a big red automobile is the fairy prince of modern times.

NEEDLES AND PINS

TRY and keep your anthill of success out of the shadow of the other fellow's mountain—it won't seem so small to you.

AN old hen may not know enough to go in when it rains, but she can bring forth more beauty from an ordinary egg-shell than any magician living.

THE love of a true man is a woman's first glimpse of Paradise.

NEEDLES AND PINS

THERE is still hope for the man who lowers his voice when he speaks of his mother.

A MAN and a woman look at life through different glasses—the man's is magnified, the woman's usually smoked.

YOUTH is a question—old age is the answer.

EVERY woman who marries is sure the world stopped going around during the ceremony.

NEEDLES AND PINS

CLOTHES do not change a woman, but they change some other woman's opinion of her.

THE man who wants his wife to be his comrade doesn't growl at a few cobwebs in the parlor.

WHEN one woman tells another woman she can trust her husband, she is either near-sighted or a fit subject for the foolish house.

NEEDLES AND PINS

MOST women would rather weep over a past memory than laugh over to-day's pleasures.

HAPPINESS is that state of mind we are all reaching for; and just as we are about to grasp it, nine times out of ten we'll lose our mind.

HEAVEN, Home and Hell start out the same, but their paths diverge at the sign-post "Love".

NEEDLES AND PINS

WHEN we see a woman blush and a man laugh over the very same occurrence, we wonder if it was only a rib man lost to woman in the beginning.

A WIFE'S struggle for complete possession of her husband's heart is as useless as hunting where the rainbow ends.

WHEN we see some of the apologies that are called Men, we almost wonder if the good Lord didn't get the tags mixed.

NEEDLES AND PINS

A HUSBAND'S neglect of his wife will deaden every virtue she may have had when he married her.

BECAUSE a young husband says "Damn" when the nurse tells him it's triplets, doesn't mean that he is ungrateful.

MONEY breaks into society, and society breaks into the Ten Commandments.

NEEDLES AND PINS

FEW women are satisfied with the love of a good man.

WHEN a man is first married he goes up into the seventh heaven of delight, but he falls back to earth with a dull thud when he gets his wife's first dressmaking bill.

THE father's daily grind limbers up a bit when he hears his baby laugh.

NEEDLES AND PINS

GENIUS is more often a necessity than a birthright.

A CHICKEN-HEARTED man and a hard-hearted woman hurt us where we can't rub it.

THE good morals of some people are like good resolutions on New Year's day—not safe behind the door with temptation.

NEEDLES AND PINS

DREAMS come true—if it's a dream about a visit from your mother-in-law.

TIMES have changed, and so have people. Only Love and Death are the same.

THE only man we have ever heard of who wanted to be a woman died at an early age of softening of the brain.

NEEDLES AND PINS

TALK is the safety valve of the brain.

IF your eyes are weak, don't strain them looking for good fortune—you'll go broke buying spectacles.

ANY woman will tell you a looking-glass is a mean old thing, after it is thirty-five years old.

A MAN'S greatest achievement has never yet produced the thrills of his first pair of pants.

NEEDLES AND PINS

DESPAIR brings more men to their knees than any million dollar church has ever succeeded in doing.

A FOOL is own brother to the wise man—according to some other fool's idea.

A MOONLIGHT night is responsible for much in a man's life.

WIVES with cold feet get the biggest alimony.

NEEDLES AND PINS

THE family clothesline, on wash day, is a terrible give away to your neighbors.

THE woman who found it easy to get acquainted with her husband on a street corner, finds to her sorrow that there are other women and other street corners.

THERE are strings on everything in this world excepting death.

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